Disappearance of sea beaches

*117. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to relentless onslaught of sea, vast stretches of beaches have disappeared posing grave concern to the fishermen in Southern region;

(b) is so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As reported by Survey of India, there is no information from any source regarding vast stretches of beaches which have disappeared. However, as per the information available in Coastal Erosion Directorate, Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), out of the total 7,516.60 kms about 1,450 kms of coast line is affected by sea erosion. The data pertaining to Southern region is as follows:—

State/Union Territory	Length of Coastline and locations affected by sea-erosion
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	9.19 kms; Uppada and near by villages near kakinada and some places in West Godavari and Krishna Districts.
Goa	10.50 kms; Coastal areas in Pernem, Bardez, Salcete, Canacona, Tiswadi Talukas.
Karnataka	249.56 kms; Coastal areas in Mangalore, Udupi and Kandapur Talukas in Dakshina Kannada District and Bhatkal, Honnavar, Kunta, Ankola and Karwar Talukas in Uttara Kannada District.
Kerala	478 kms; Coastal areas in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Manjeri, Kozhikode, Thalessery,Kasaragode Divisions.
Pondicherry	6.40 kms; Coastal areas in Pondicherry.

1	2
Tamil Nadu	36.15 kms; Coastal areas in Chennai North, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thioothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts.
Lakshadweep	132 kms; Coastal areas in the Islands of Agatti, Amini, Andrott, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Kiltan and Minicoy.

(c) Planning, investigation and execution of schemes to check sea erosion are the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. These are funded by the State Governments from the Annual Plan funds provided to the States by the Planning Commission under Flood Control. However, in order to tide over the immediate fund constraints faced by the States is implementing anti-sea erosion works on the critical reaches, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (now shifted to State Sector) "Critical Anti Erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" is implemented by Central Water Commission for protection of critical coastal areas of Maritime States/Union Territories. Further, the Ministry of Water Resources has formulated a National Coastal Protection Project to arrange external funding for protection of coastal areas in Maritime States/Union Territories from sea erosion.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate all developmental activities in the Coastal Regulation Zone area for protection of the coastal environment.

Minimum support price of wheat

†*118. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Minimum Support Price of wheat in the country is Rs. 650/- per quintal while in open market this rate is Rs. 1300/- per quintal;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the main reasons behind this crisis is shortsightedness of Government;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.